

ENERGY FACTS

- If the cooling temperature in every California home was turned up 2 degrees, we could save 770 megawatts (enough electricity to power 770,000 homes). If the heating temperature in every California home was set at 68 degrees instead of 72 degrees, we could save over 500 megawatts (enough electricity to power 500,000 homes).
- Air conditioners account for 30% of the state's electricity use during the summer.
- Peak hours are the time of day, generally between 4 and 6pm, when most people use electricity.
- For each load of laundry your family washes in cold water instead of hot water, you save enough energy to power your TV for 34 hours!
- The electricity required to light one regular lightbulb can light four compact fluorescent lightbulbs.
- Refrigerators, dishwashers, microwaves, TVs, and other electrical appliances that carry the ENERGY STAR label use at least 20 percent less electricity than those appliances that do not carry the ENERGY STAR label.

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS

There are a number of very simple steps that your family can take to save electricity. Here are a few tips:

No Cost Investments

- When it's hot, set the thermostat at 78 degrees or when it's cold, set the thermostat at 68 degrees.
- Think off-peak! Use less electricity between 4 and 6pm.
- Use fans instead of air conditioners for cooling and avoid using space heaters during colder months.
- Do only full laundry loads. Reducing the number of laundry loads per week and hanging clothes up to dry saves on your monthly electricity bill.
- When it's hot, keep shades and curtains closed to prevent the sun from heating up rooms and cool air from escaping. When it's cold, open shades and curtains to let the sun in to warm your house or school.
- Do only full dishwashing loads and allow outside air to dry your dishes.
- Recycle your second refrigerator—this could save up to \$150 per year.

Investing to Save Energy

- Replace incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs.
- Wrap your water heater with a water heater blanket.
- Fix defective plumbing or dripping faucets—drips waste energy and water.
- If your refrigerator, washer, air conditioner, dishwasher, and other large appliances are more than 10 years old, replace them with an ENERGY STAR appliance.

Yes, my child helped our household learn more about energy conservation and we worked together on the Home Energy Action Plan.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

FAMILY TAKE-HOME PAGE

The Kids' FLEX YOUR POWER Energy Challenge



Encouraging conservation—in school and at home!

DEAR FAMILY,

This homework assignment is part of an energy conservation activity entitled **The Kids' Flex Your Power Energy Challenge**. It consists of a Home Energy Action Plan, which is a brief home energy audit that will be conducted by you and your child. The audit is designed to help your family assess your home energy use, explore ways to save energy, and reduce your monthly electricity bill. It also provides information about various state energy conservation programs and services. These include rebates for ENERGY STAR appliances and incentives if you cut your energy use by 20 percent. You are encouraged to return the signed Family Energy Action Pledge to your child's teacher for display in the classroom.

WHY CONSERVE ENERGY?

Conservation helps ensure that there will be enough electricity for everyone. Now is a good time to think about ways we can all do our part to save energy. By conserving electricity (and helping the state avoid rolling blackouts), you can save money on your own utility bill and be eligible for special rebates, discounts, and other incentives.



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FIND OUT MORE! To read more about how to conserve energy or find out more about special incentives and programs that encourage energy conservation, check out the following Web sites or call the following toll-free numbers:

Consumer Affairs: 1-866-968-7797

California Energy Commission: 1-800-555-7794

Flex Your Power: This is the Governor's energy Web site. Go here to find energy-saving ideas, rebates for energy-efficient products, answers to questions, and more. www.flexyourpower.ca.gov

California Energy Commission: A consumer energy site to assist Californians in saving electricity and money at work and at home. www.consumerenergycenter.org

We plan to increase energy conservation in our home by:

No Cost Actions

- ☐ Setting the thermostat to 78 degrees in summer and 68 degrees in winter.
- ☐ Turning off lights and equipment in unoccupied rooms
- ☐ Avoid using certain appliances during the peak hours of 4 and 6pm
- ☐ Washing full loads of laundry
- ☐ Hanging up clothes to dry

Investing to Save Energy

- ☐ Installing _____ Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs
- ☐ Weatherstripping _____ doors
- ☐ Caulking _____ windows
- ☐ Taking advantage of the rebates for ENERGY STAR appliances

Your Own Ideas



PLEASE SIGN, CLIP, AND HAVE YOUR CHILD RETURN THIS **FAMILY ENERGY ACTION PLEDGE** TO SCHOOL.



The Kids' FLEX YOUR POWER Home Energy Action Plan

1. Kids, become an Energy Detective! Do this activity with an adult in your family. When you're done, you'll have an action plan for saving energy at your home.
2. Have the adult sign the pledge at the bottom of this form.
3. Bring the signed pledge form back to your teacher.

	WHAT DO YOU KNOW?	FIND OUT NOW!	WHAT WILL YOU DO?
THERMOSTATS	How many thermostats do you have in your home? _____	How many are set at the appropriate temperature for summer and winter? _____	At what temperature will you set your thermostats? _____
USAGE	How many appliances (washer, dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator) do you use between the peak hours of 4 and 6pm? _____	Which appliances could you use at different hours? _____	Which appliances will you avoid using during "peak hours"? _____
WINDOWS	How many doors and windows are in your home? ____ windows ____ doors	How many are caulked and have weather-stripping? ____ windows ____ doors	How many doors and windows will you caulk and weather-strip? ____ windows ____ doors
LAUNDRY	How many loads of laundry do you wash each week? _____	How many loads of laundry could be washed in cold water instead of hot water? _____	How many loads of laundry will you wash in cold water each week? _____
LAUNDRY	How many times a week do you use the clothes dryer? _____	What percentage of your clothes do you hang up to dry? _____	What percentage of your clothes could be hung up to dry? ____ %
LIGHTBULBS	How many regular lightbulbs are there in your home? _____	How many are compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs)? _____	How many regular lightbulbs could you replace with CFLs? _____
APPLIANCES	How many large appliances (refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers) are there in your home? _____	How many do not have an ENERGY STAR label? _____	Which appliances could you replace with ENERGY STAR appliances? _____

FAMILY ENERGY ACTION PLEDGE

Please clip this **Family Energy Action Pledge**, sign it, and return it to school with your child.



PLEASE SIGN, CLIP, AND HAVE YOUR CHILD RETURN THIS **FAMILY ENERGY ACTION PLEDGE** TO SCHOOL.